

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 OMB-01 MCT-01 SY-05 CU-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /076 W

-----190524Z 003454 /15

R 181441Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3171

AMCONSUL ASMARA

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 1656

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SEDU, ET

SUBJ: UNSETTLED ADDIS ABABA SCHOOL SITUATION UNABATED

REFS: A) ADDIS ABABA 1273 (NOTAL, B) ADDIS ABABA 1072 (NOTAL),

C) ADDIS ABABA 928 (NOTAL), D) ADDIS ABABA 827 (NOTAL),

E) ADDIS ABABA 653 (NOTAL, F) ADDIS ABABA 1577 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: CONTINUING STUDENT BOYCOTT OF ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL CLASSES STILL ONE OF MAJOR PROBLEMS CONFRONTING PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC). REPEATED PMAC THREATS APPARENTLY NOT HAVING DESIRED EFFECT OF FORCING STUDENTS BACK TO CLASS. MARCH 18 ETHIOPIAN HERALD DEVOTES LARGE PORTION OF PAPER TO "STUDENT" PROBLEM AND IN EDITORIAL COLUMN CALLS FOR ARMING OF STUDENTS. MEASURES BEING TAKEN IN MAJOR PROVINCIAL TOWNS AGAINST DISRUPTIVE STUDENTS CREATING FEAR AMONG ADDIS ABABA STUDENT POPULATION THAT SIMILAR MEASURES WILL BE ENACTED HERE. EVEN ADDIS ABABA ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS HAVE EXPERIENCED SOME DISRUPTIONS, BUT THEY APPEAR CONTAINED FOR PRESENT. EPMG CAMPAIGN AGAINST STUDENT-AGE YOUTH, ALLEGEDLY INSTIGATED BY PROVISIONAL OFFICE MASS ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS (POMOA), HAS INTENSIFIED GREATLY PAST THREE WEEKS. CONSEQUENCES OF INTERNECINE STRUGGLE HAVE BEEN
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INCREASE OF ASSASSINATIONS OF PRO-GOVERNMENT ELEMENTS AND INDISCRIMINATE ARRESTS AND KILLINGS OF STUDENT-AGE YOUTH.
END SUMMARY.

1. MARCH 18 ETHIOPIAN HERALD EDITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGED RECENT ASSASSINATIONS OF PROGRESSIVE INDIVIDUALS, ECONOMIC SABOTAGE AND WHIPPING-UP OF WHITE TERROR "HAVE ALMOST BECOME PART AND

PARCEL OF THE DAY". COLUMN CONTINUED, CHILDREN OF OPPRESSED HAVE BEEN CONDEMNED, BEATEN, STABBED AND MURDERED IN COLD BLOOD AND THAT ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES OCCURRING AT FACTORIES, IN URBAN DWELLERS' ASSOCIATIONS (KEBELES), AND IN RURAL AREAS DUE TO EPRP AGITATION. EDITORIAL URGED THAT COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY STUDENTS BE EXPOSED AND THAT MURDERERS AND ARSONISTS BE LIQUIDATED. TO THIS END, HERALD URGED EPMG TO ARM STUDENTS TO ENABLE THEM TO LINE UP ACTIVELY WITH WORKERS, PEASANTS AND KEBELE REVOLUTIONARY DEFENSE COMMITTEES.

2. IN SIMILAR VEIN, TV FEATURE PRINTED IN MARCH 18 HERALD STATED ANTI-PEOPLE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNERS HAD MADE SCHOOLS AND BUREAUCRACY THEIR HIDEOUTS AND REJECTED "UNSCIENTIFIC NOTION" EVERY STUDENT A REVOLUTIONARY. IT URGED AN END TO TOLERANCE OF ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY STUDENTS. TO RESOLVE THE CONTINUING STUDENT BOYCOTT AND ANTI-REVOLUTIONARY STUDENT ACTIVITIES, TV FEATURE LIKEWISE RECOMMENDED ARMING OF ALL PROGRESSIVE STUDENTS. FEATURE COMMENTED STRUGGLE NOT AGAINST STUDENTS ALONE, AND INCLUDED REACTIONARY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND SCHOOL DIRECTORS AMONG THOSE WHO BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRESENT SITUATION. IT ALSO RECOMMENDED DEFENSE SQUADS BE SET UP IN SCHOOLS AND REVOLUTIONARY ACTION BE TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT AGAINST EXPOSED COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY STUDENTS. SIMILAR TO PREVIOUS CALL FOR CLEANSING OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION, TV FEATURE URGED KEBELES AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES TO CLEANSE SCHOOLS IN COOPERATION WITH GENUINE REVOLUTIONARIES.

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3. IN MAJOR PROVINCIAL TOWNS, EPMG HAS BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN RELATIVELY NORMAL SCHOOL SCHEDULE. HOWEVER, STERN MEASURES

HAVE BEEN NECESSARY TO DO SO. IN DESSIE (WOLLO), PARENTS' SCHOOL SUPERVISORY COMMITTEES PASSED RESOLUTION TO TAKE "REVOLUTIONARY MEASURES" AGAINST DISRUPTIVE STUDENTS, WHICH COULD INCLUDE THEIR OWN CHILDREN. IN WOLISO (SHOA), STUDENTS WERE URGED TO AND REPEATEDLY HAVE INFORMED AGAINST THEIR PEERS. IN DIRE DAWA (HARARGHE) CITIZENS HAVE EXPOSED "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY" TEACHERS. SIMILAR EXPOSURES OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS HAVE OCCURRED IN NEKEMPTA (WOLLEGA) AND JIMMA (KAFFA). THROUGH MASS MEDIA PUBLICITY AND PROPAGANDA, EVENTS INVOLVING STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OUTSIDE ADDIS ABABA HAVE HAD IMPACT ON SCHOOL POPULATION HERE. PERHAPS FROM FEAR OF SIMILAR MEASURES BEING TAKEN HERE AND BECAUSE OF INTIMIDATION BY REVOLUTIONARY DEFENSE COMMITTEES, BOTH ADDIS ABABA TECHNICAL TRAINING AND COMMERCIAL SCHOOLS HAVE NEARLY 100 PERCENT ATTENDANCE. ADDIS STUDENTS BELOW 10TH GRADE REPORTEDLY ATTENDING CLASSES NEAR 75 PERCENT OF CAPACITY. MINOR PROBLEMS WHICH THREATENED TO SPREAD TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS SEEM TO HAVE DISAPPEARED. HOWEVER, STUDENTS ABOVE 9TH GRADE MAINTAINING NEARLY 90 PERCENT EFFECTIVE BOYCOTT OF CLASSES. FORTY TO 60 PERCENT OF 4TH YEAR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ATTENDING CLASS, BUT STUDENTS NOT TAKING NOTES, STUDYING OR PARTICIPATING IN DISCUSSIONS. AMONG 1ST THROUGH 3RD YEAR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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ATTENDANCE ALLEGEDLY ONLY 10 PERCENT TO 20 PERCENT.

4. RELIABLE SOURCE WITH DIRECT ACCESS TO POMOA MEMBERS ALLEGED EPMG CAMPAIGN AGAINST STUDENT-AGE YOUTH ONE PART OF POMOA-INSPIRED PLAN TO ERADICATE ALL OPPOSITION ELEMENTS WITHIN URBAN "ELITE". SOURCE NAMED HAILE FIDA, NEGEDE GOVEZE AND MESFIN KASSU AS CHIEF DESIGNERS OF PLAN. ONE RESULT OF PLAN HAS BEEN INCREASED VIOLENCE (REFTEL F) AND WIDESPREAD REPORTS OF KILLING OF MANY STUDENT-AGE YOUTH. RETALIATORY ASSASSINATIONS OF PRO-GOVERNMENT RESIDENTS BY YOUTHS ALSO CONTINUING TO INCREASE.

5. COMMENT: ARMING OF "PROGRESSIVE" STUDENTS WOULD FURTHER ADD TO LEVEL OF TENSION AND KILLINGS IN ADDIS ABABA IF PMAC ACTUALLY IMPLEMENTS EDITORIAL'S PROPOSAL. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY AWARE OF RUMORS ALLEGING SOME STUDENTS ALREADY ARMED, THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC CONFIRMATION OF THIS RUMOR. ADDIS ABABA SCHOOL SITUATION STILL UNSOLVED, BUT CALLS FOR STERNER AND MORE DRASTIC MEASURES INCREASING. WITH CONTINUED INTIMIDATION OF FELLOW STUDENTS BY PEERS, IT STILL NOT LIKELY SCHOOLS WILL RESUME NORMAL SCHEDULE SOON.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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